

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1.-25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) A lock bar merchandise system for selectively securing merchandise to a vertical support, comprising:

a lock bar assembly mounted to the vertical support, the lock bar assembly including a pair of sides in lateral spaced relations, the sides extending forwardly relative to the vertical support, and a product retainer extending laterally between the sides to define an open area for storage of merchandise, and a lock adapted to secure the product retainer, the product retainer being a separate member from the sides and movable, relative to the sides such that the product retainer is not unitary with the sides;

a row of peg hooks disposed in spaced lateral relation between the sides of the lock bar assembly, each peg hook including a product retainer arm projecting generally forward through the open area relative to the vertical support, each product retainer arm adapted to support merchandise; ~~and~~

wherein the lock includes a locked condition in which a front portion of each product retainer arm is trapped by the product retainer, and an unlocked condition in which the front portion of each product retainer arm is free of the product retainer for installation or removal of merchandise; and

wherein respective hinges connect each side to the product retainer, the product retainer pivotable relative to the sides upwardly and downwardly via the hinges.

27. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 26, wherein the product retainer includes upper and lower security bars extending in lateral spaced relation with a gap formed therebetween, and wherein a free forward end of the product retainer arm for each peg hook is trapped in the gap in the locked condition.

28. (Currently Amended) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 27, wherein the product retainer is pivoted relative to the sides about ~~a hinge~~ the hinges when moved from the locked condition to the unlocked condition.

29. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 26, wherein the lock bar assembly includes a peg hook support bar extending laterally between the sides, the peg hook support bar being spaced rearward of the product retainer proximate the vertical support, and wherein each peg hook includes a mounting bracket, the mounting bracket of each peg hook being slidably mounted on the peg hook support bar.

30. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 29, wherein the lock bar assembly includes a peg hook security rod extending laterally between the sides, the peg hook security rod extending coextensively with the peg hook support bar along a substantial portion thereof to trap the mounting brackets of different peg hooks on the lock bar assembly and prevent removal therefrom.

31. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 30, wherein the peg hook support bar and the peg hook security rod define a substantially constant gap which traps the mounting brackets, and a larger entrance opening which provides means for slidably installing and removing mounting brackets of peg hooks on the peg hook support bar.

32. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 29, wherein each mounting bracket includes a front panel disposed over a front face of the peg hook support bar, and a hook wrapped over a top of the peg hook support bar, the product retainer arm being mounted to the front panel.

33. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 26, wherein each side includes a mounting hook securing the lock bar assembly to the vertical support.

34. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 26, further comprising a label holder mounted to the product retainer.

35. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 26, wherein the lock is integral with the product retainer and the sides, the lock comprising a

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keyed mechanism carried by the product retainer, the key mechanism having a movable latch actuated by a key, and wherein the lock includes a stop defined by one of the sides, the latch cooperating with the stop in the locked condition to prevent movement of the product retainer.

36. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 26, wherein the product retainer arm of each peg hook defines a upwardly bent free end.

37. (Currently Amended) A lock bar assembly for selectively securing merchandise via peg hooks to a vertical support, comprising:

a pair of sides disposed in lateral spaced relation, each side having a mounting hook such that each side is adapted to mount to the vertical support, each side extending forwardly from the mounting hook to a front end;

a product retainer extending laterally between the respective sides between the respective front ends thereof, the product retainer including upper and lower security bars extending in lateral spaced relation with a gap formed therebetween;

a lock having a locked position fixing the product retainer relative to the sides and an unlocked position in which the product retainer is movable relative to the sides;

a support bar mounted to each of the sides and extending laterally therebetween rearward of the product retainer; and

a plurality of hinges ~~hinge~~ pivotably connecting the product retainer to the sides proximate the front end wherein the product retainer is pivotable upwardly and downwardly about the hinges ~~hinge~~ relative to the sides when moved from the locked condition to the unlocked condition.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The lock bar of claim 37, wherein the support bar provides means for slidably retaining a plurality of mounting backs of different peg hooks thereon.

40. (Previously Presented) The lock bar assembly of claim 37, further comprising a peg hook security rod extending laterally between the sides, the peg hook security rod extending coextensively with the peg hook support bar to define a substantially constant gap along a substantial portion thereof which is configured and size to trap mounting brackets when slidably mounted on the support bar, and a larger entrance opening portion which provides means for slidably installing and removing mounting brackets of peg hooks on the support bar.

41. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 37, further comprising a label holder mounted to the product retainer.

42. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 37, wherein the lock comprises a keyed mechanism carried by the product retainer, the key mechanism having a movable latch actuated by a key, and wherein the lock includes a stop defined by one of the sides, the latch cooperating with the stop in the locked condition to prevent movement of the product retainer.

43-44. (Cancelled).

45. (Previously Presented) The lock bar merchandise system of claim 44, wherein the sides have mounts for mounting the sides to the vertical supports.